

Remarks

Claims 1-10, 12-21, 25, 32, 34 and 36-37 are currently pending in the application and have been rejected by the Examiner. In response, the Applicant has amended the claims to cancel all currently pending claims and has provided new claims 48 through 58 for the Examiner's consideration.

The Examiner states that paragraph 6 of the disclosure is objected to because of a typographical error. This error has been addressed by the amendments to the specification.

The new claims added to the application claim a circular magnetic recording medium having a hole defined therein wherein the soft magnetic underlayer (SUL) is composed of one or more layers of soft magnetic material, wherein each of layers has an as-deposited thickness of approximately 80 nm or less. The Applicants have discovered that depositing the SUL in a laminated manner having individual laminations approximately 80 nm or less results in a disc having its easy access oriented in the radial direction of the circular recording medium. It is also necessary to have a hole in the middle of the recording medium because it is necessary that the circular recording medium exhibit uniaxial anisotropy over its entire surface. The uniaxial anisotropy is maintained in a regional manner on the disc (i.e., from point to point on the disk), however, without the hole, portions of the disc which are opposite each other would not be able to exhibit uniaxial anisotropy and still have the easy axis oriented in a radial direction in the plane of the disk.

Although Mallery, as previously cited by the Examiner, discloses a recording medium having its easy access in the radial direction, Mallery does not disclose a disc having a laminated SUL wherein the laminations are approximately 80 nm or less. The uniaxial anisotropy achieved in the Mallery reference results from the deposition of the SUL in the presence of a magnetic field supplied by the apparatus described in the reference.

The Applicant respectfully submits that no reference cited during the prosecution of this application discloses a device having all of the elements as claimed in claims 48-58 and, in particular, no reference discloses a laminated SUL having laminations approximately 80 nm or less in thickness, resulting in a circular magnetic recording medium having a magnetic easy access in the radial direction of the circular medium.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants have deleted the currently pending claims and have provided a new claim set which is believed to be distinguishable in all aspects from the prior of art of record in the case in the manner discussed above. The Applicant, therefore, submits that the currently pending claims 48-58 are patentable and requests consideration of those claims by the Examiner.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis M. Carleton
Reg. No. 40,938
Attorney for the Applicant

Buchanan Ingersoll
One Oxford Centre, 20th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Voice: 412-562-1895
Fax: 412-562-1041
e-Mail: carletondm@bipc.com